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Yae No Sakura Ch.9

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TRANSLATION	CLEANING	REDRAWS
Nipponbanzai	Nipponbanzai Nux	Zenbu Nipponbanzai
PROOFREADING	**TYPESETTING**	**QC**
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八重の桜

YAE NO SAKURA

YAMAMOTO MUTSUMI

TAKEMURA YOUHEI

NHK

Character Introduction

YAMAMOTO (KAWASAKI) YAE

A GUNNERY INSTRUCTOR FROM THE AIZU CLAN, AND THE ONLY DAUGHTER OF THE YAMAMOTO HOUSEHOLD. SHE'S A STRONG-WILLED WOMAN THAT SHOWS MORE INTEREST IN GUNNERY THAN SEWING. SHE WON'T LOSE TO ANYONE IN HER PASSION FOR GUNS.

Summary

THE LAST STAGE OF THE EDO PERIOD.

WITHIN THIS VIOLENT ERA, YAMAMOTO YAE, THE ONLY BORN GIRL FROM THE YAMAMOTO HOUSEHOLD, AND THE GUNNERY INSTRUCTORS OF THE AIZU CLAN, GREW UP WITH AN INTEREST IN GUNS.

AFTER HER BROTHER KAKUMA RETURNED FROM EDO, YAE LEARNT EVERYTHING HE WAS TAUGHT BY HIS FRIEND KAWASAKI SHOUNOSUKE, WHICH DRASTICALLY IMPROVED HER ABILITY.

LATER ON, THE POSITION OF KYOTO MILITARY COMMISSIONER WAS GIVEN TO AIZU, AND THE FEUDAL LORD MATSUDAIRA KATAMORI ALONGSIDE KAKUMA AND YAMAKAWA OOKURA, DEPARTED TO KYOTO.

IN THE MEANTIME, SHOUNOSUKE WHO STAYED BEHIND IN AIZU TRYING WITH ALL HIS MIGHT TO DEVELOP A NEW RIFLE MODEL, RECEIVED A LETTER FROM KAKUMA WHO STRONGLY URGED HIM TO GET MARRIED TO YAE AFTER HE HAD SUCCESSFULLY IMPROVED THE GUNS.

AFTER THAT YAE AND SHOUNOSUKE BECAME A PUBLICLY MARRIED COUPLE.

THE YAMAMOTO HOUSEHOLD WAS IMMERSED IN HAPPINESS, BUT AS TIME WENT ON, THE SITUATION FOR THE AIZU CLAN TOOK A TURN FOR THE WORST.

DURING THE BOSHIN WAR IN TOBA-FUSHIMI, YAE'S YOUNGER BROTHER SABUROU, WHO HAD LEFT TO STUDY ABROAD, WAS KILLED IN ACTION AND A NOTICE REGARDING KAKUMA'S EXECUTION ALSO ARRIVED FOR THE HOUSEHOLD.

WITHOUT A CHANCE TO DESPAIR, THE HORRORS OF THE BOSHIN WAR WERE HEADING TOWARDS THE AIZU CLAN...

YAMAKAWA OOKURA

YAE'S CHILDHOOD FRIEND AFTER BECOMING THE HEAD OF HIS HOUSEHOLD, HE BEGAN TO RISE IN THE RANKS IN KYOTO. RECOGNIZED FOR HIS EXCELLENCE, HE WAS GIVEN AN IMPORTANT ROLE DESPITE HIS AGE.

YAMAMOTO KAKUMA

YAE'S OLDER BROTHER. HE TRAVELED TO THE CAPITAL WHEN LORD KATAMORI WAS ELECTED AS THE KYOTO MILITARY COMMISSIONER. HE WAS ARRESTED AFTERWARDS DURING THE OUTBREAK OF THE BOSHIN WAR.

MATSUDAIRA KATAMORI

THE 9TH FEUDAL LORD OF AIZU. HE WAS ELECTED AS THE KYOTO MILITARY COMMISSIONER, BUT ENDED UP BEING PURSUED BY KYOTO ANTI-BAKUFU FORCES.

KAWASAKI SHOUNOSUKE

YAE'S HUSBAND. HE CAME TO AIZU AFTER MEETING KAKUMA IN EDO. AFTER GETTING MARRIED, HE BEGAN TO WORK FOR THE AIZU CLAN AFTER HIS KNOWLEDGE OF WESTERN GUNNERY WAS FINALLY ACKNOWLEDGED.

SAIGOU TANOMO

CHIEF RETRAINER OF THE AIZU CLAN. HE WAS AGAINST THE APPOINTMENT OF KATAMORI AS THE KYOTO MILITARY COMMISSIONER BUT THEN LATER CHANGED HIS MIND.

YAMAMOTO GONPACHI

YAE'S FATHER. FOR THE SAKE OF YAE'S FUTURE, HE WAS AGAINST TEACHING HER THE ART OF THE GUNNERY.

TEIJIROU

A BOY THAT LIVES IN YAE'S NEIGHBORHOOD. HE LIKES TO CALL YAE "MASTER" AND IS CURRENTLY LEARNING GUNNERY.

YAMAMOTO SABUROU

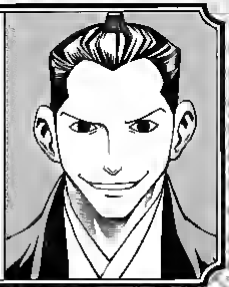
YAE'S YOUNGER BROTHER. HE WAS STUDYING IN EDO BUT, AFTER HIS PARTICIPATION IN THE KYOTO TOBA-FUSHIMI WAR, HE LOST HIS LIFE.

YAMAKAWA TOSE

OOKURA'S WIFE. SHE TREATS YAE AS HER RIVAL.

KAJIWARA HEIMA

OOKURA'S BROTHER AND CHIEF RETRAINER OF AIZU.



YAE NO SAKURA

YAE NO SAKURA VOL.3

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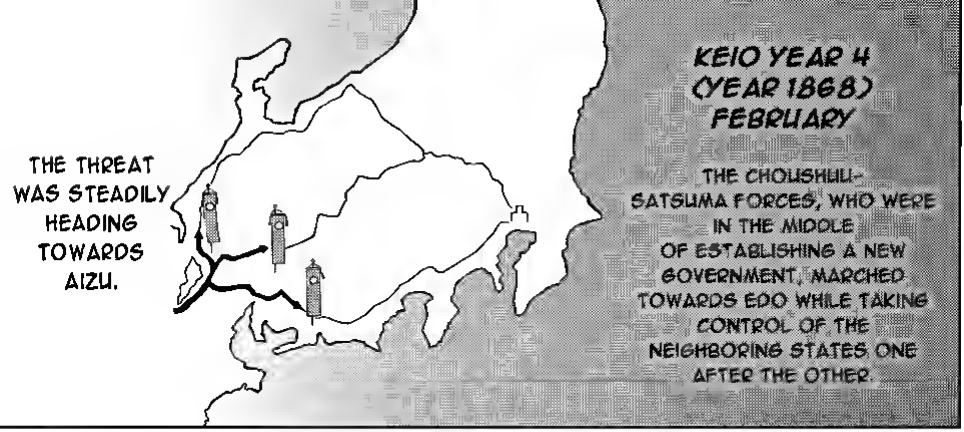
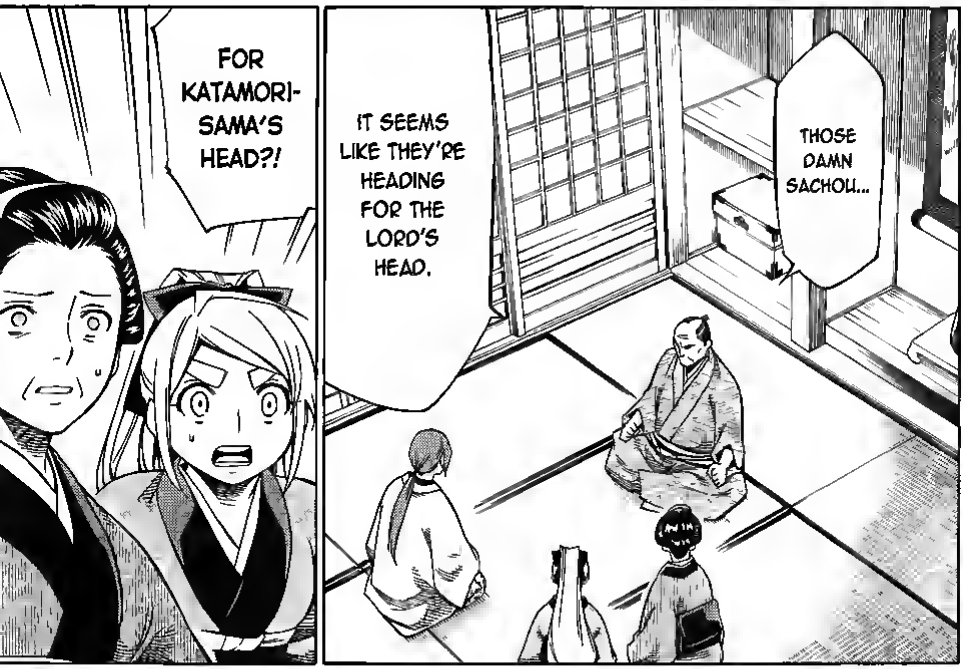
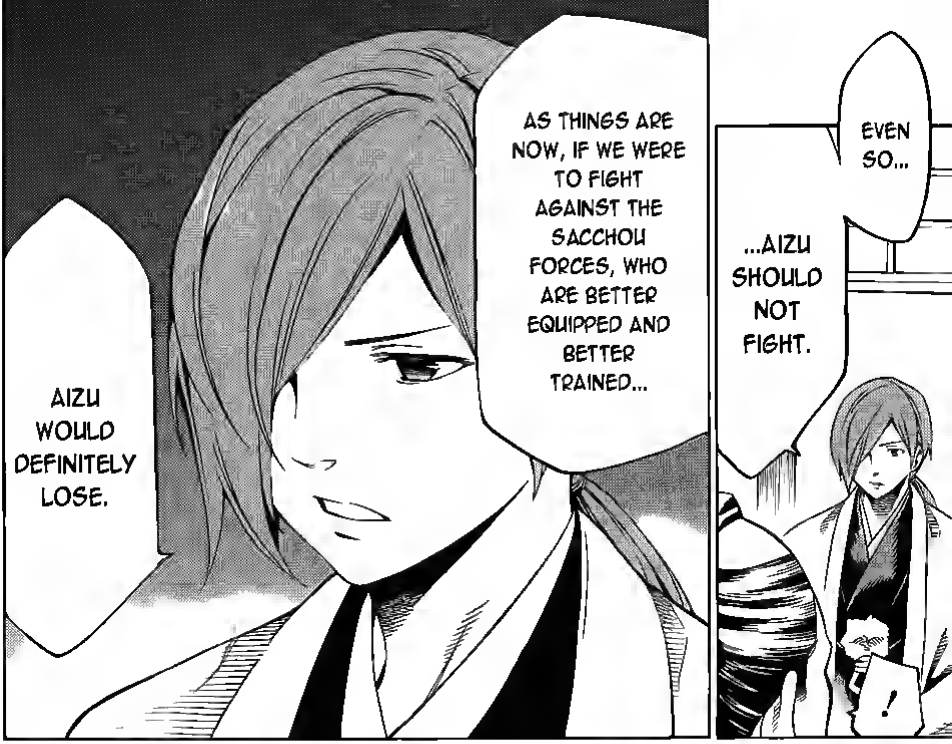

KEIO YEAR 4
(YEAR 1868)
FEBRUARY
THE CHOUSHUU-SATSUMA FORCES, WHO WERE IN THE MIDDLE OF ESTABLISHING A NEW GOVERNMENT, MARCHED TOWARDS EDO WHILE TAKING CONTROL OF THE NEIGHBORING STATES ONE AFTER THE OTHER.
THE THREAT WAS STEADILY HEADING TOWARDS AIZU.

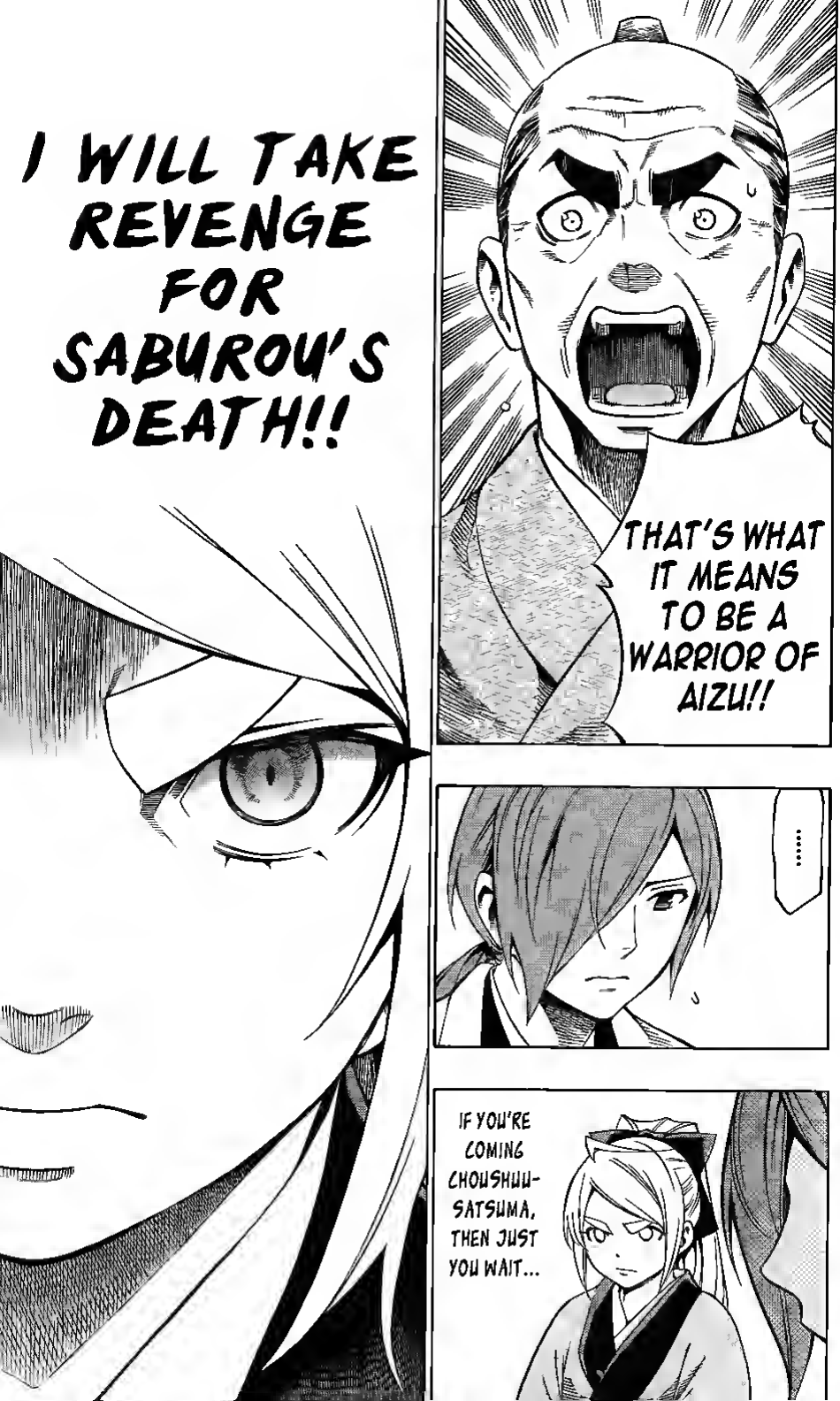
CHAPTER 9: AIZU'S WAR BEGINS!



BUT NOW THEY EVEN WANT TO MAKE AN ATTEMPT ON THE LORD'S LIFE... WHO HAS NOTHING TO DO WITH THIS. THIS IS UNFORGIVABLE!
THEY AREN'T SATISFIED WITH JUST MAKING TENSHI-SAMA, WHO PROTECTED AIZU FOR A LONG TIME IN KYOTO, A TRAITOR...


AS THINGS ARE NOW, IF WE WERE TO FIGHT AGAINST THE SACCHOU FORCES, WHO ARE BETTER EQUIPPED AND BETTER TRAINED...
AIZU WOULD DEFINITELY LOSE.
EVEN SO...
...AIZU SHOULD NOT FIGHT.
!

WE WILL PROTECT THE LORD'S LIFE, UNTIL THE LAST OF OUR MEN FALLS!!
NO MATTER THE ODDS...
HOW DARE YOU SPOUT SUCH COWARDICE!!
SFX: THUMP!


I WILL TAKE REVENGE FOR SABUROU'S DEATH!!
THAT'S WHAT IT MEANS TO BE A WARRIOR OF AIZU!!
.....
IF YOU'RE COMING CHOUSHUU-SATSUMA, THEN JUST YOU WAIT...

AIZU'S WAR BEGINS!

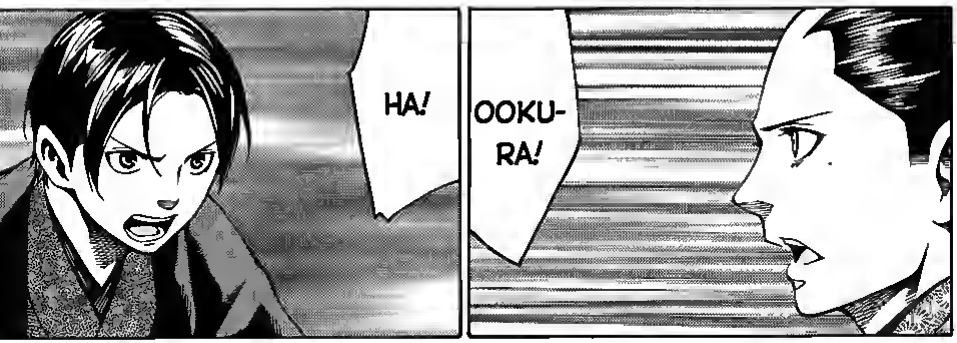
SURRENDER YOU SAY?!
WE HAVE TO PROTECT THE INNOCENT PEOPLE!!
IF WE SURRENDER IMMEDIATELY, THEN SACCHOU FORCES WOULDN'T HAVE A REASON TO INVADE US.
TANOMO-DONO HAVE YOU GONE MAD?!

EVERY ONE OF US CHIEF RETRAINERS COULD OFFER OUR HEADS INSTEAD, SO THAT THEY SOMEHOW MIGHT SPARE HIM!!
AND REGARDING THE LORD'S LIFE...
SOMETHING LIKE THAT WON'T STOP THEM.
HOW FOOLISH...
WHAT WOULD YOU KNOW!!
KAJIWARA!!
IF WE REMOVE OUR MILITARY FORCES RIGHT NOW, WE'LL JUST GET SLAUGHTERED WITHOUT RESISTANCE.
YOU, WHO SPENT THE LAST 5 YEARS CONFINED IN YOUR HOUSE IN AIZU...
?!

DO YOU WANT YOUR HONOR AS A SAMURAI TO BE STEPPED ON...?!
HOW DIFFICULT AND HUMILIATING IT IS TO BE CALLED A TRAITOR IN KYOTO, AND MOREOVER SURRENDERING...
.....
THERE-FORE OUR CLAN WILL...
I ALSO WANT TO AVOID AIZU'S BLOOD TO BE SPILT.
!
I UNDERST-AND BOTH OF YOU.

MY LORD...?!
AND DECLARE THAT WE WANT TO ESTABLISH A NEW GOVERNMENT.
FOLLOW ※TOKU -GAWA SOUSUKE.
※TOKUGAWA YOSHINOBU HAD ALREADY REVEALED HIS OPPOSITION TO THE IMPERIAL COURT AS WELL AS A NEW GOVERNMENT
IF THEY STILL WANT TO ATTACK US, IN THAT CASE...
HOW-EVER...
WILL FACE THE ENEMY!
THE WHOLE CLAN...

BUT LORD...!
.....
OOOHHH!!!

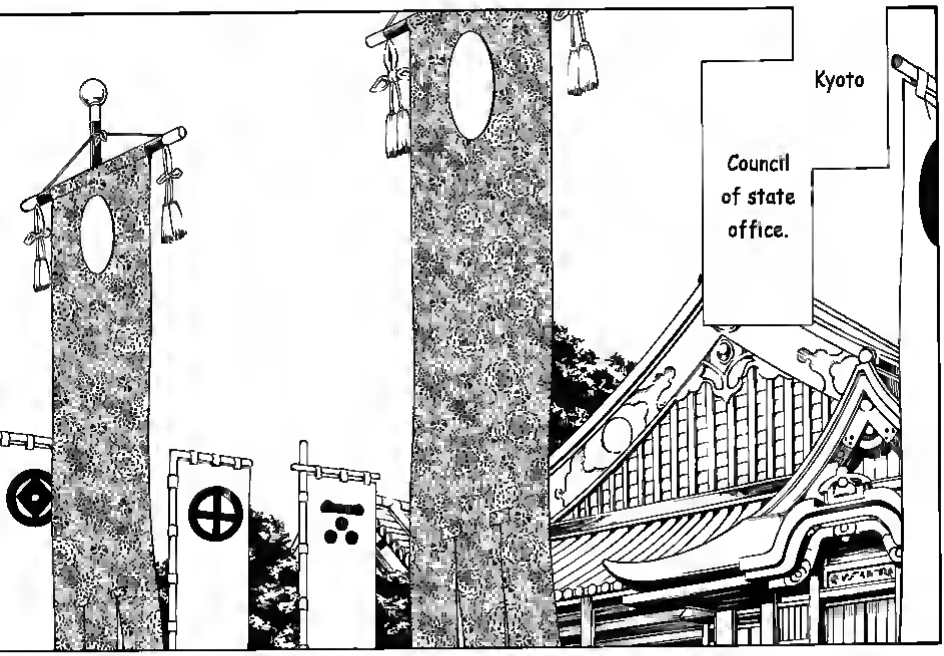

HA!
OOKU-RA!

SO MAKE ARRANGE-MENTS AS FAST AS YOU CAN!
WE DON'T HAVE MUCH TIME...
WE ALSO HAVE TO IMPROVE OUR CURRENT ARMAMENTS FOR RIFLES, CANNONS, AND SO FORTH.
WE LEARNED MUCH FROM THE BATTLE IN KYOTO...
FIRST, WE HAVE TO INNOVATE THE ANCIENT MILITARY STYLE FROM NAGANUMA RYUU TO THE WESTERN-EUROPEAN STYLE.

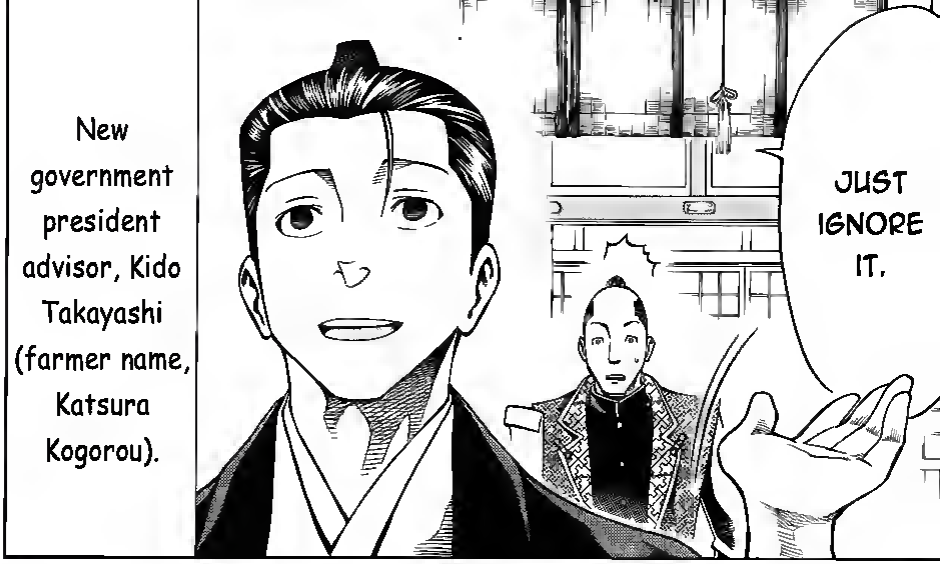
Aizu discarded the military style of Naganuma Ryuu from the Tenmei era.
In March of this year...
.....
AT ONCE!
Genbutai (Black Tortoise Company)
50 Years and Above
The army personnel was divided into four age groups.
Seiryuutai (Blue Dragon Company)
36-45 Years Old
By learning the basis of the French style...
Suzakutai (Vermillion Bird Company)
18-35 Years old
They managed to form an army of about three thousand soldiers.
Byakkotai (White Tiger Comany)
16-17 Years old

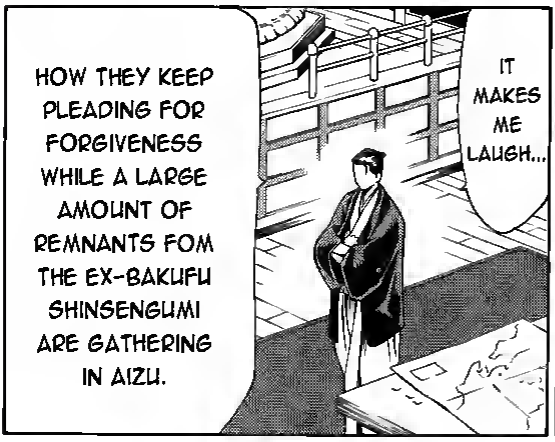
TL/N: "Tenmei era" 1781–1789

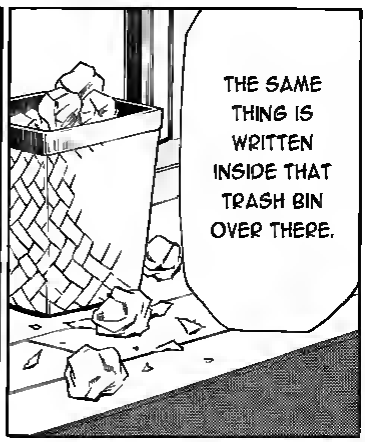
IT'S EVIDENT WHO'S BETTER ARMED...
...WE STILL HAVEN'T RECEIVED THE THOUSAND SCHNEIDER RIFLES THAT KAKUMA ORDERED FROM NAGASAKI...



※ THERE WERE "TRAITORS" INSIDE VARIOUS CLANS IN CASE THE AIZU CLAN TRIED TO APPEAL REMISSION WITH THE PURPOSE OF MAKING AN ALLIANCE


New government president advisor, Kido Takayashi (farmer name, Katsura Kogorou).
JUST IGNORE IT.

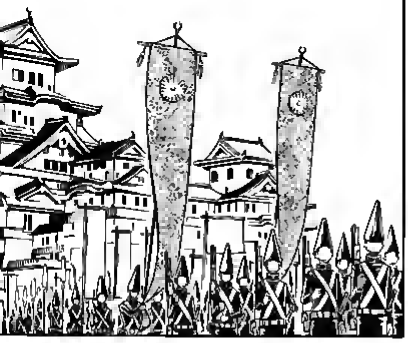

HOW THEY KEEP PLEADING FOR FORGIVENESS WHILE A LARGE AMOUNT OF REMNANTS FOM THE EX-BAKUFU SHINSENGUMI ARE GATHERING IN AIZU.
IT MAKES ME LAUGH...


THE SAME THING IS WRITTEN INSIDE THAT TRASH BIN OVER THERE.

IS ABSO-LUTE!
AIZU'S SUBJUGA-TION...

KEIOU YEAR 4
(YEAR 1868)
APRIL 11TH.

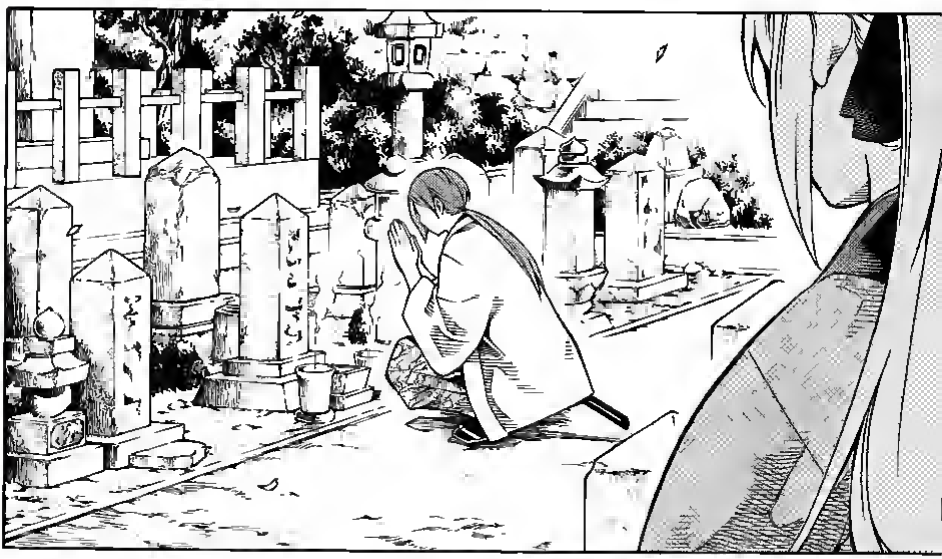
AFTER TAKING CONTROL OF THE EDO CASTLE, THE NEW GOVERNMENT HAD NO INTENTION OF STOPPING.



A merciless military force began to march towards the north.

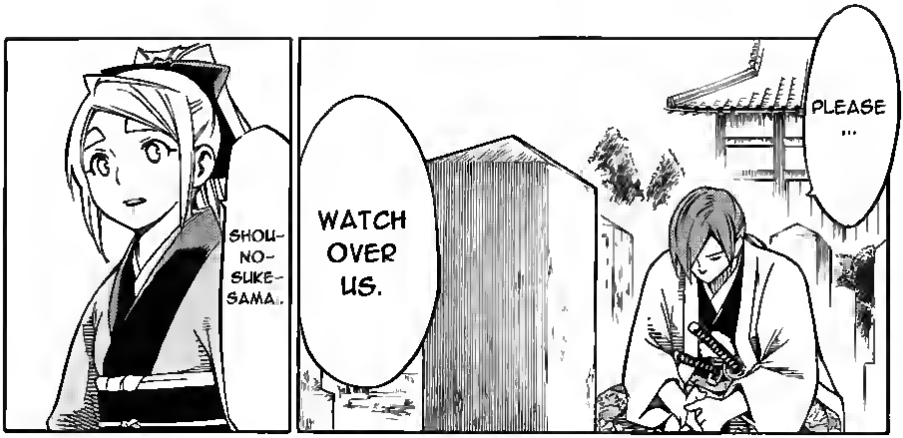
NOTHING BUT THE LIFE OF MATSUDAIRA KATAMORI, CAN MAKE UP FOR...

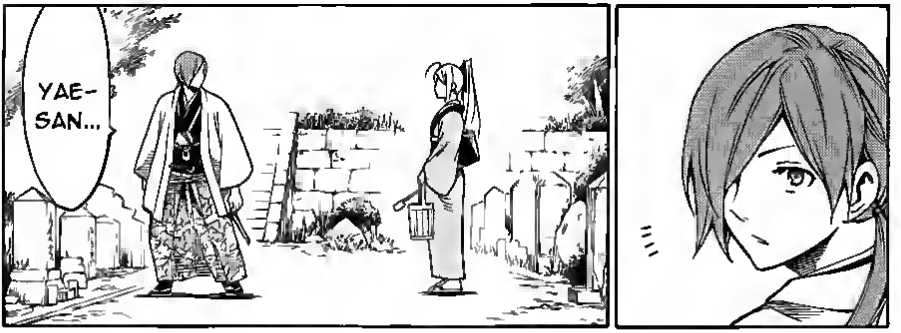
THE BLOOD OF OUR COMRADES THAT WAS SPILLED IN KYOTO.

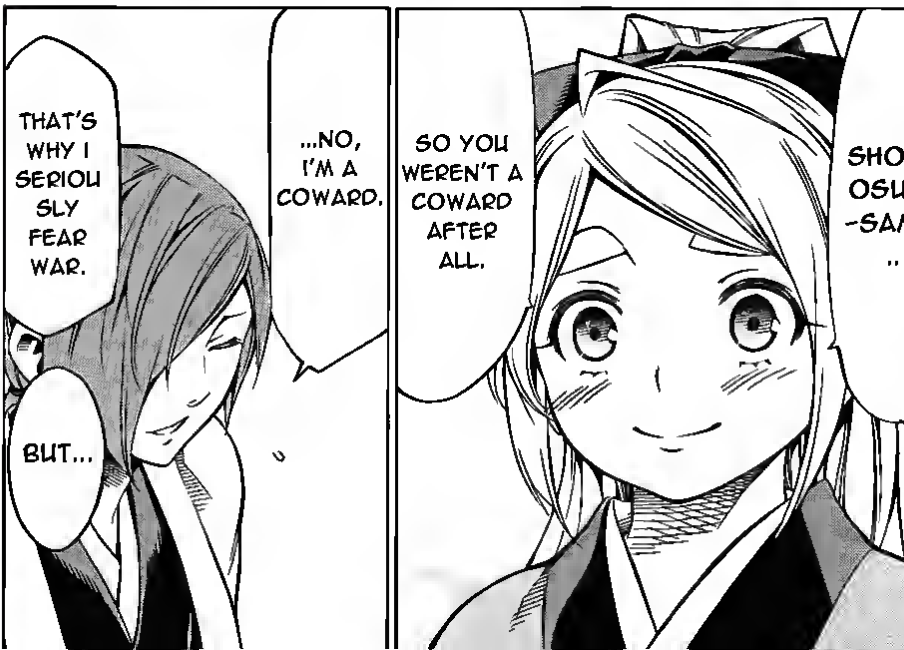


IT LOOKS LIKE THERE'S NO WAY FOR AIZU TO AVOID THIS BATTLE.
KAKUMA-SAN, SABUROU-KUN...

TALKING LIKE A COWAR-
AGAIN...
IF WE FIGHT LIKE THIS, AIZU'S CHANCES OF WINNING ARE ALMOST IMPOSSIBLE...
OUR WEAPONS ARE STILL OLD MODELS... AND OUR NEW MILITARY STYLE IS AN IMITATION.
!
I'LL WIN THIS BATTLE.
BUT...
THAT'S THE ONLY THING I ABSOLUTE -LY CANNOT FAIL IN.
MY BATTLE CONSISTS OF...
PROTECTING YAE AND EVERYONE FROM THE YAMAMOTO HOUSEHOLD.


SHOU-NO-SUKE-SAMA.
WATCH OVER US.
PLEASE ...


YAE-SAN...


THAT'S WHY I SERIOU SLY FEAR WAR.
...NO, I'M A COWARD.
BUT...
SO YOU WEREN'T A COWARD AFTER ALL.
SHOUN OSUKE -SAMA. ..

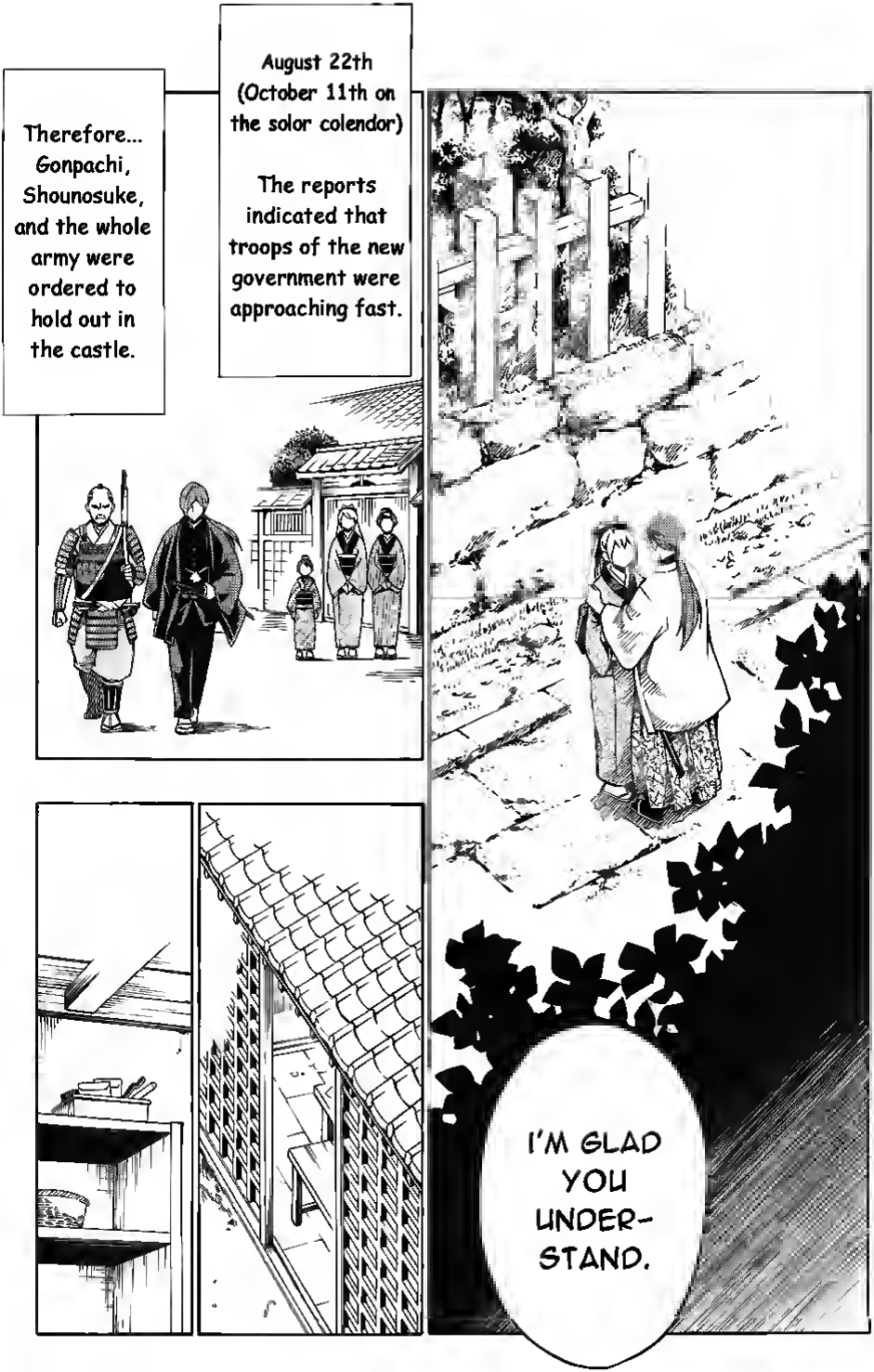
WHAT I FEAR MOST IS...
LOSING YOU IN THE WAR.
THE WINTER WILL COME SOON.
WHICH MEANS THAT THE FOREIGN TROOPS OF THE NEW GOVERNMENT WILL HAVE DIFFICULTIES FIGHTING IN THE DENSE SNOW OF AIZU, DON'T YOU THINK?
SFX: JERKS
THERE MIGHT BE A WAY TO RECONCILE IF WE HOLD ON UNTIL THEN.
I SEE...
YAE-SAN...
YOU'RE PLANNING ON FIGHTING, AREN'T YOU?
EH...?! EHM... WELL...

PROMISE ME THAT YOU WILL LIVE.

THAT YOU WILL LIVE.

THAT NO MATTER HOW HEART-BREAKING,
PAINFUL,
OR SAD IT MAY GET...
NO MATTER WHAT FUTURE AWAITS YOU...
YOU'LL KEEP ON LIVING,
UNTIL THE VERY END OF YOUR DAYS.

.....
FIGHT...
TO KEEP ON LIVING...
THAT IS...
OUR FIGHT.


August 22th
(October 11th on the solor colendor)
The reports indicated that troops of the new government were approaching fast.
Therefore... Gonpachi, Shounosuke, and the whole army were ordered to hold out in the castle.
I'M GLAD YOU UNDER-STAND.

I HAVE TO HIDE THE GUNS AND THE GUNPOWDER SO THAT THE ENEMY CAN'T STEAL IT...
SIGH...
.....

MASTER YAE!
TEI-JIROU!
WHY ARE YOU WEARING THOSE CLOTHES?!

BUT YOU'RE SUPPOSED TO BE IN THE INFANT SQUAD...
WHITE TIGER COM-PANY..?
THIS IS THE WHITE TIGER COM-PANY'S UNIFORM!
!!
I ASKED KUMIGA-SHIRA-SAMA TO ENLIST ME AS A 16 YEAR OLD.

TO PROTECT AIZU AND MASTER YAE!
I WILL ALSO GIVE IT MY BEST...

SFX: TOKUN TOKUN
?!
MA... MAS-TER YAE?!
DON'T DIE... DON'T YOU DARE DIE!
REMEMBER THAT YOU'RE MY NUMBER ONE DISCIPLE!!

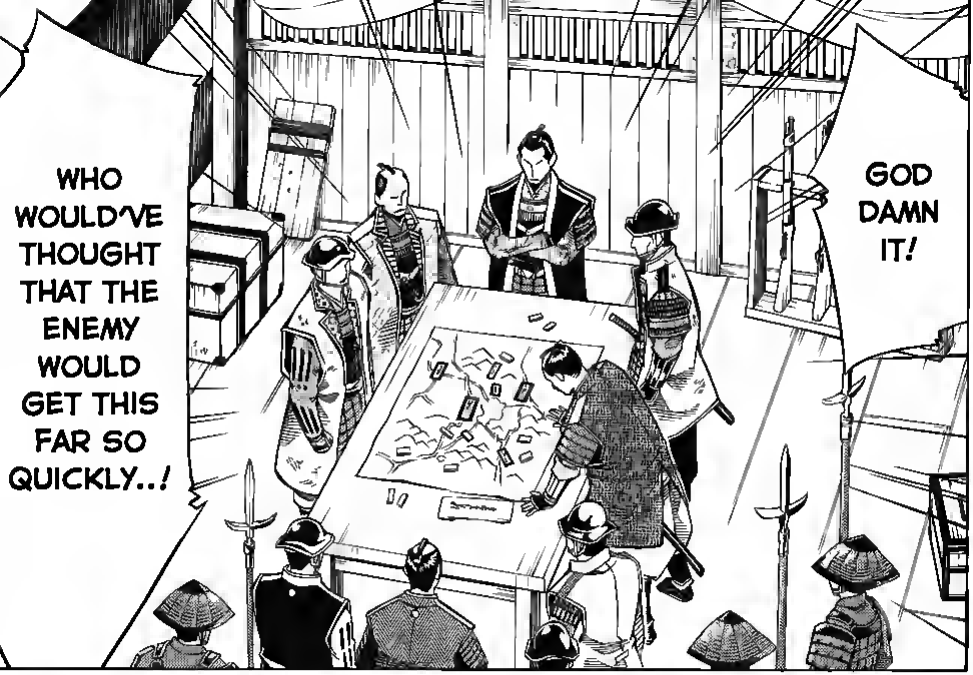
FIST
August 23rd
IT'S THE FIRE ALARM!
THE ENEMY HAS FINALLY COME!

OKAA-SAMA...
URA! QUICKLY!
WE SHOULD GO TO THE CASTLE, TOO..!
I CAN HEAR THE CANNONS.
EH... WHY?!
I WILL... STAY.
URA!!
ANE-SAMA!
I WILL GO TO WHERE MY HUSBAND IS.
SFX: UNSHEATHE
Unsheathe
IF A WOMAN STAYS IDLE IN A CASTLE, SHE WILL BECOME USELESS, AND I CANNOT BRING MYSELF TO DO THAT.

T.L/N. By "Ihatsu" she means that his hair wasn't cut yet. When a samurai get his hair cut it means banishment or death.

YAE?!
THAT'S SABUROU'S...
COME ON ANE-SAMA...
THERE'S WORK FOR US TOO!
TRUST ME!
MOM-MY...
PLEASE DON'T LEAVE ME...
YAE-SAN... MINE...

カンカンカン
THE ENEMY HAS MADE IT TO THE CASTLE OUTSKIRTS!
QUICK, HEAD TO THE CAS-TLE...
HUR-RY!
OKAA-SAMA, ANE-SAMA..
THIS WAY!
ドサッ
YAE! WHERE ARE YOU GOING?!
ワァ
SFX: DASH
YAE!!!


GOD DAMN IT!
WHO WOULD'VE THOUGHT THAT THE ENEMY WOULD GET THIS FAR SO QUICKLY..!

AND MOST OF OUR LORD'S ARMY WAS SENT TO THE BORDERS...
THERE ISN'T ANYONE LEFT TO LEAD THE DEFENSE...ALL THERE IS IN THE CASTLE ARE OLD AND THE CHILDREN!

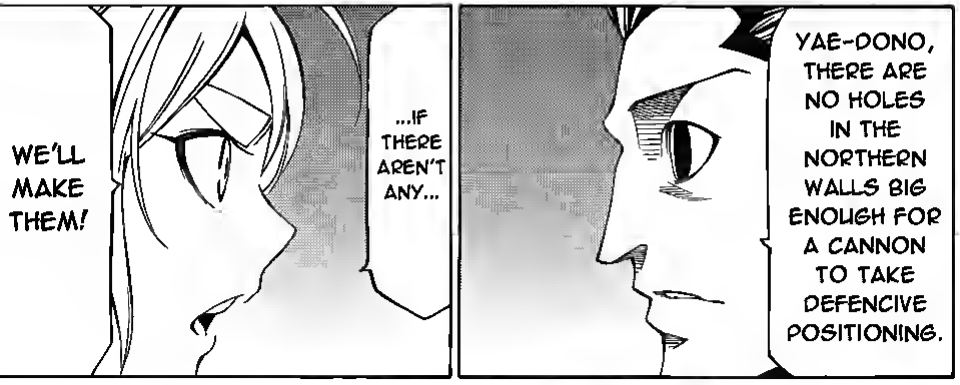
IF ONLY OOKURA-DONO WOULD RETURN...
I'LL TAKE THE LEAD!!

A...A WO-MAN?!
WHO ARE YOU?!
I'M...
YAMAMOTO GONPACHI'S DAUGHTER, YAMAMOTO KAKUMA'S YOUNGER SISTER...
MY NAME IS YAMA-MOTO YAE!!

IF THERE ARE ANY CANNONS LEFT INSIDE THE CASTLE, I SUGGEST WE PLACE THEM AROUND THE NORTH.
IF THE KOUGA AND MUIKA'S GATES ARE PENETRATED, THE ENEMY WILL SURGE IN ALL AT ONCE...
KAKUMA'S YOUNGER SISTER...
LEAVE!
THIS IS NO PLACE FOR A WOMAN!!
THEN HURRY UP!!
I ALREADY KNEW THAT!!
SFX: GRITTING TEETH
BE IT A MAN OR WOMAN, IT DOESN'T MATTER!

WHEN IT COMES TO GUN-NERY, I WONT LOSE TO ANYONE!!!
THIS IS AIZU'S FIGHT!
TL/N: she means Aizu as a whole
MY SKILLS ...
WILL SURELY BE OF HELP!

……


YAE-DONO, THERE ARE NO HOLES IN THE NORTHERN WALLS BIG ENOUGH FOR A CANNON TO TAKE DEFENCIVE POSITIONING.
…IF THERE AREN'T ANY…
WE'LL MAKE THEM!

……
AHAHA HAHAH AHA!
KAJIWARA-DONO..?!

I EXPECTED NO LESS FROM KAKUMA'S YOUNGER SISTER.
YOU KNOW, YOUR BROTHER SUGGESTED THE SAME STRATEGY IN KYOTO.
ONII-SAMA DID..?

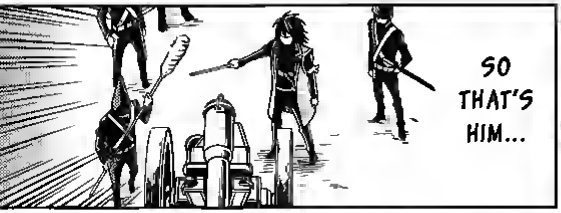
LEAD THE RIFLEMEN COMPANY UNTIL I ORGANIZE EVERYTHING!
BRING THE CANNONS, HURRY!
KAJI WARA -DON O?!

SFX: BOOM
YES!

SFX: DANG
SFX: BANG BANG
SFX: FWISH
!
THIS... THIS IS BAD!!
SFX: GORO GORO (ROLLING/ROLLING)
AT THIS RATE, THE GATE WILL BE DESTROYED..!
THEY'RE PLANNING TO ATTACK US WITH A CANNON!!
!
PLEASE MOVE OUT OF THE WAY!

SFX: BCHH BCHH BCHH (STEPPING ON WATER)
WHAT THE HELL IS A WOMAN DOING HERE?!
A...A WO-MAN?!
WHAT'S THE BEST WAY TO NEUTRALIZE A CANNON WITH A GUN?
ONII-SAMA..
CANNONS ARE VERY POWERFUL... IT ISN'T SOMETHING YOU CAN ATTACK BY YOURSELF. HOWEVER, THEY DO HAVE A WEAKNESS.
YAE, THAT'S A GOOD QUESTION..

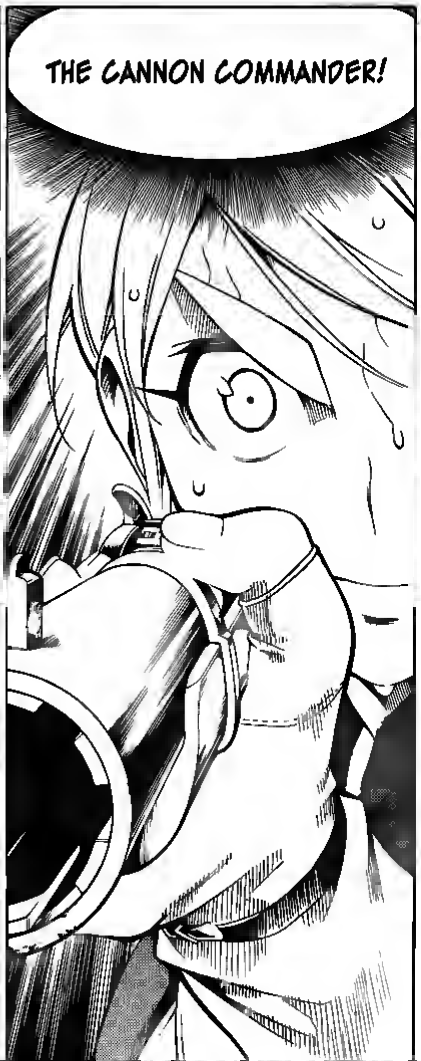
YOU SEE, A CANON REQUIRES A TEAM OF PEOPLE... FOR INSERTING THE GUNPOWDER AND CANNONBALL, CLEANING THE CANNON BARREL...
AND MOST IMPORTANTLY, DECIDING THE CANNON'S ANGLE AND THE AMOUNT OF GUNPOWDER...

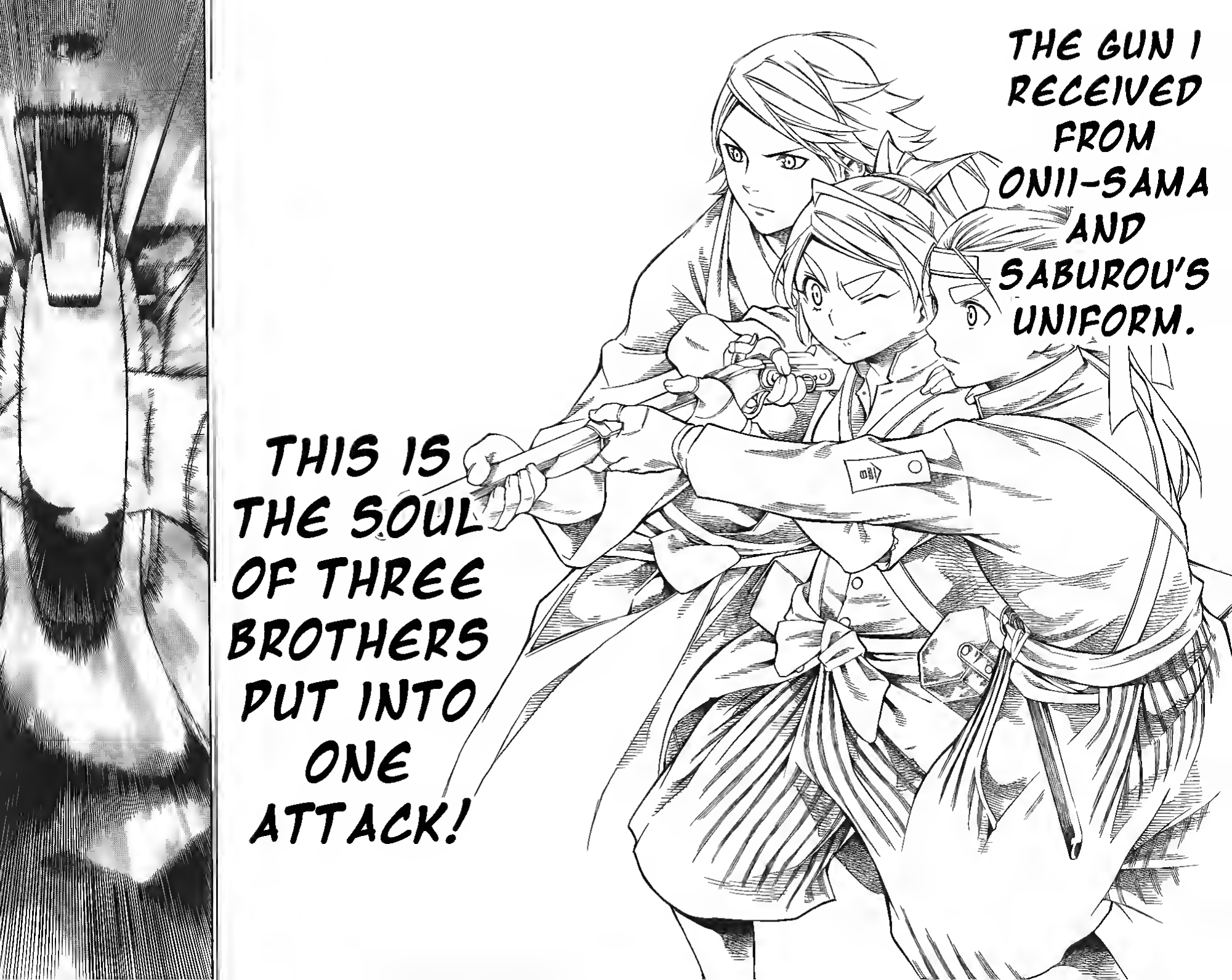

SO THAT'S HIM...

O...
OI..?

HE'LL KILL PEOPLE..
IF I DON'T TAKE CARE OF HIM...

HE'LL BE CAUTIOUS IF I DON'T BRING HIM DOWN IN ONE SHOT.


THE CANNON COMMANDER!


THE GUN I RECEIVED FROM ONII-SAMA AND SABUROU'S UNIFORM.
THIS IS THE SOUL OF THREE BROTHERS PUT INTO ONE ATTACK!

SFX: DSHH
AGHH~

OOOOHHHHHHHHHHH!!!!
W...WITH A SINGLE SHOT...
FROM THIS DIS-TANCE...

ON THIS DAY, A WAR FAR MORE SEVERE THAN THE BOSHIN WAR TO DEFEND A CASTLE HAD BEGUN.
I WON'T LET YOU TAKE THIS CASTLE!!